

July 23, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of groups and individuals **opposed** to efforts by the local Bell telephone companies to circumvent current rules on calls placed with a pre-paid calling card. If they succeed, it will result in higher rates -- in many cases, dramatically higher rates -- for consumers who place the calls. As you approach your work on this docket, I implore you to keep the needs of consumers in mind rather than the pleadings of the four Bell companies.

The Bell companies want to target those calls in which a caller uses a pre-paid calling card and dials a toll-free number, along with his or her PIN. The caller, who may be in Virginia, for example, is connected to a "platform" in another state -- let's say in Nebraska. From this "platform," he or she hears a message about a company, non-profit or person. The caller then dials the telephone number of someone in Virginia. Current rules, as well as common sense, state that this represents two calls, one from Virginia to Nebraska and one from Nebraska to Virginia. Both calls are subject to interstate access charges because there is a call to Nebraska and then a separate call to Virginia.

But the Bell companies want to treat this as a single in-state call so they can levy exorbitant in-state access charges. Such fees have no relationship whatsoever to the Bell companies' actual costs, which are only a fraction of what they want to charge consumers.

Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

I am aware that the long distance companies and others that sell pre-paid calling cards have weighed in with the FCC in an effort to protect their customers' interests in this manner. It is now time for the FCC to weigh in on the side of consumers and show the Bell companies the door on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Abernathy", written in a cursive style.

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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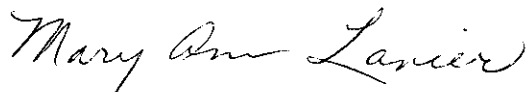
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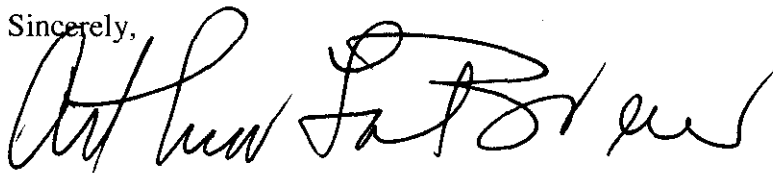
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Imposing new charges and fees would amount to a substantial increase in the per-minute cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to many consumers in our community. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices and would make these services substantially less affordable.

Please look out for consumers by refusing to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Arthur L. Fink", written in a cursive style.

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Vincent D. Johnson".

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
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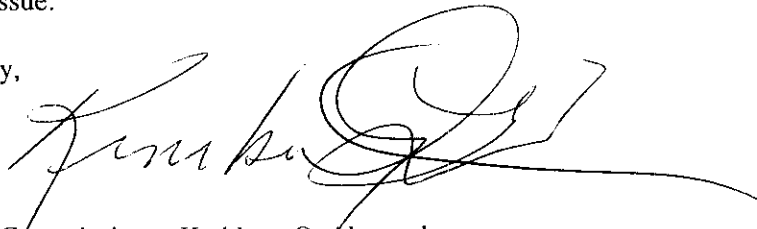
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kim B. O'Leary", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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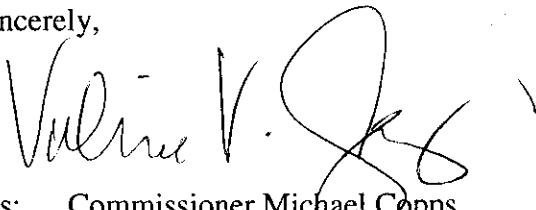
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Valerie V. Jones", with a stylized flourish at the end.

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ellis Washington". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ellis" and last name "Washington" clearly distinguishable.

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Michelle L. Lyew". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

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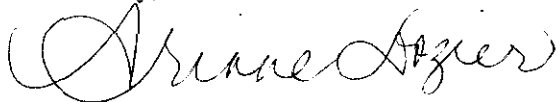
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Anne Stier".

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "J. Marzette Smith". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

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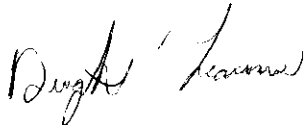
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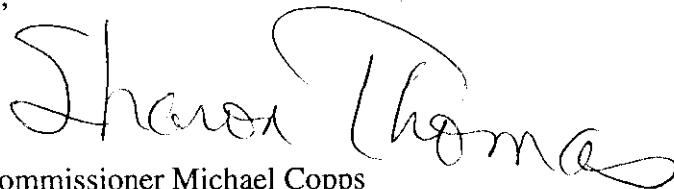
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sharon Thomas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Sharon" and last name "Thomas" clearly distinguishable.

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
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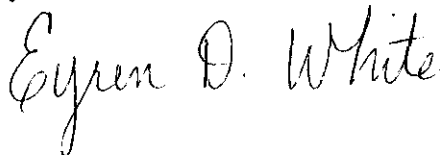
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A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Elyen D. White". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the list of recipients.

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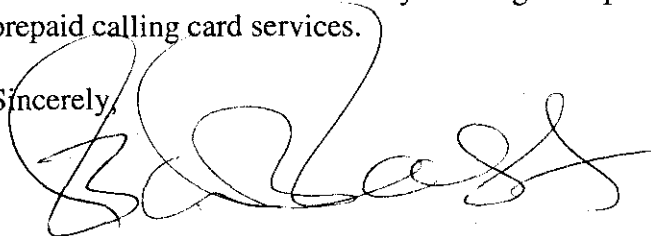
In particular, minority consumers living on fixed incomes or those without the means necessary to subscribe to local telephone service rely on prepaid calling cards to stay connected at set, affordable rates. Students, immigrants, senior citizens, military personnel, and others face similar challenges.

As a result, prepaid calling cards often are the only option available – without them, some consumers would, quite literally, be out of choices for staying connected. Raising the price of prepaid services will directly harm those that can least afford price increases.

Imposing new charges and fees would amount to a substantial increase in the per-minute cost of prepaid calls, destroying the utility of calling cards to many consumers in our community. Allowing the large, local telephone companies to collect such charges, even when they do not sell the calling card to a customer, would drive up prices and would make these services substantially less affordable.

Please look out for consumers by refusing to impose new access charges and fees on prepaid calling card services.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael Copps", written over a large, stylized circular flourish.

ccs: Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Kathleen Abernathy
Commissioner Kevin Martin
Commissioner Jonathan Adelstein

July 23, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

Re: WC Docket No. 03-133

Dear Chairman Powell:

I am writing to add my voice to the growing number of groups and individuals **opposed** to efforts by the local Bell telephone companies to circumvent current rules on calls placed with a pre-paid calling card. If they succeed, it will result in higher rates -- in many cases, dramatically higher rates -- for consumers who place the calls. As you approach your work on this docket, I implore you to keep the needs of consumers in mind rather than the pleadings of the four Bell companies.

The Bell companies want to target those calls in which a caller uses a pre-paid calling card and dials a toll-free number, along with his or her PIN. The caller, who may be in Virginia, for example, is connected to a "platform" in another state -- let's say in Nebraska. From this "platform," he or she hears a message about a company, non-profit or person. The caller then dials the telephone number of someone in Virginia. Current rules, as well as common sense, state that this represents two calls, one from Virginia to Nebraska and one from Nebraska to Virginia. Both calls are subject to interstate access charges because there is a call to Nebraska and then a separate call to Virginia.

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Prices are already rising for gas, milk and other products. Consumers don't need higher prices for phone calls too, especially when these higher rates represent a blatant giveaway to four large corporations.

I am aware that the long distance companies and others that sell pre-paid calling cards have weighed in with the FCC in an effort to protect their customers' interests in this manner. It is now time for the FCC to weigh in on the side of consumers and show the Bell companies the door on this issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "L. J. Martin", is written over the typed name of Commissioner Kevin J. Martin.

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

July 23, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
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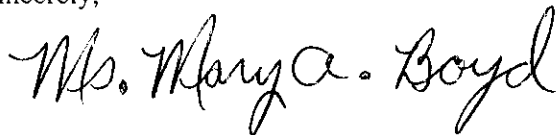
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ms. Mary A. Boyd". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

July 23, 2004

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Federal Communications Commission
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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Cascade".

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

July 23, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Fayette Turner". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

July 23, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
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Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert A. Jackson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

July 23, 2004

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Federal Communications Commission
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Sincerely,

Angela Walker

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Capps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

July 23, 2004

Chairman Michael K. Powell
Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
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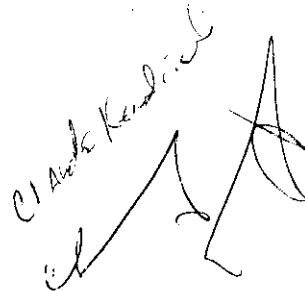
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Sincerely,

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein

Charles K. Kendra


July 23, 2004

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Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, S.W.
Washington, DC 20554

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Sincerely,

Patricia D. Oliver

ccs: Commissioner Kathleen Q. Abernathy
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Kevin J. Martin
Commissioner Jonathan S. Adelstein